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*History of a Case of Imperforated Hymen. By Mr Francis Kæymer, of Henrietta Street, Covent-Garden: Communicated to Dr Pearson, Physician, London.*

A LADY, aged seventeen, for the space of five months, was afflicted with violent pains in the abdominal region, which continued in severe paroxysms of several hours duration, recurring twice or thrice a-week.

During the attack of these paroxysms, there was little appearance of tumor; but on their departure a sensible swelling was felt, of a moveable nature, and which seemed to change its situation, and to give the appearance of flatulency rather than any other cause.

So

So violent were this lady's complaints, that a number of the first practitioners were consulted on her situation: And, from the circumstance of her having twice menstruated, as alleged by her friends, no suspicion could be entertained of the real cause of her disease. A variety of treatment, therefore, was pursued for her relief.

On the supposition of flatulence, carminatives were ordered, which produced a temporary alleviation of her symptoms. The same effect followed the use of opiates, and even the warm-bath.

From the violence of the symptoms, her disease, I at last supposed, might originate from the state of the bladder. And, in order to ascertain this, I was induced to pass the catheter. In the attempt, I met with considerable resistance; and, on examining with my finger, this resistance appeared to arise from a membranous expansion, covering the entrance of the vagina.

I could now have no doubt with respect to the cause of this lady's sufferings; and, communicating my discovery to Mr Cline, who was then called in. we agreed to make an opening,

opening, through this membranous expansion, into the vagina.

On doing this, with a common lancet, an immediate discharge of a brown-coloured fluid, of the appearance and consistence of molasses, took place ; which continued to run to the quantity of five pints.

The aperture was kept open by a tent ; and nothing particular occurred in the after-treatment unfavourable, or that merits detail.

The lady is now in good health, has menstruated regularly since ; and has had no return of any disagreeable symptom.

The above case is chiefly to be regarded, as shewing how easily the first practitioners may be mistaken in accounting for the cause of a disease, where they implicitly trust to the report of the patient or her friends. From her situation, it was impossible that menstruation could ever have taken place ; and yet it was strongly asserted, that she had been twice in that condition. The discharge of blood, therefore, must have been piles, which they had mistaken for the regular catamenia ; and this symptom must have been also an effort of the system to relieve the state of the uterus,

rus, the discharge from which was prevented by this morbid covering of the passage.

In all cases of abdominal complaints in young women, particularly those of a chronic nature, the state of the catamenia should be particularly inquired into, and no confidence placed in the report of the patient, or her friends, where a swelling similar to the present is observed.

In other respects, the case nearly agrees with the other instances of imperforated hymen which are on record. The quantity of discharge is much the same, as well as the appearance. The only peculiar circumstance in this case is, that the swelling was always least when the pain was greatest.